

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL DISCUSSION
FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2014 MEETING**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) supports the establishment of a Washington Maritime National Heritage Area and encourages OCNMS and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and NOAA, to partner with this important state and regional effort to promote awareness of our region's rich maritime heritage.

Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP) efforts to establish a Washington Maritime National Heritage Area, which would include a portion of OCNMS, has received national attention. Some of the purposes of the proposed heritage area include encouraging partnerships among maritime interests and communities for the purpose of economic development and heritage tourism; to recognize and interpret the impact of nationally important maritime landscape including Native American and international heritage; to promote heritage, cultural, and recreational tourism, and to develop educational, interpretive, recreational, and cultural programs through partnerships for the benefit of visitors and the general public.

The potential benefits to the Olympic Coast are significant and align well with several OCNMS strategic priorities. The establishment of such an area would greatly complement OCNMS's goal to enhance an understanding and appreciation of the Olympic Coast's maritime heritage (living cultures, traditions, and cultural resources). It also supports promoting tourism, consistent with recent recommendations from OCNMS Advisory Council's Tourism Working Group (TWG), presented to and adopted by the AC in May 2014. Those recommendations included sponsoring events that attract tourism, which could result from the designation of a National Heritage Area. Visitors drawn to the Washington Maritime National Heritage Area would also learn about the state's dependence on coastal and marine resources and how these resources have and continue to shape the region's culture and economy, consistent with OCNMS' goal to characterize and promote an understanding of human uses within the sanctuary.